

NOVA SCOTIA



LEGAL AID COMMISSION

Twenty-Ninth Annual Report

2005/2006



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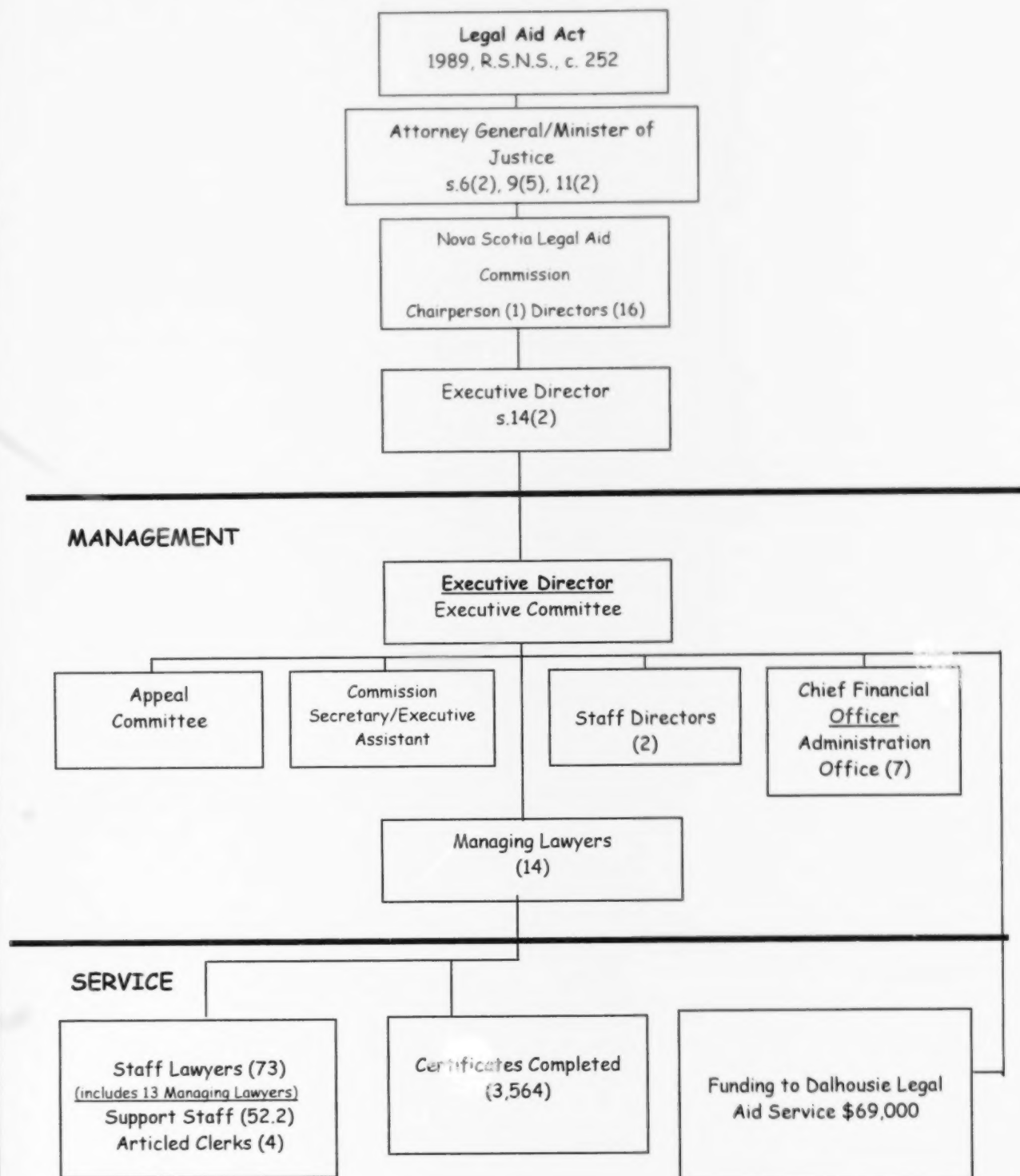


MANDATE

The mandate of the Nova Scotia Legal Commission, in so far as Government funding permits, is:

- (a) To deliver quality legal representation to qualified applicants with priority for matters involving the liberty and civil rights of individual clients and for matters involving the integrity and protection of an individual's family.
- (b) Such other legal services as Government may contract with the Commission to provide to individuals or groups.

2005/2006 NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION STRUCTURE
LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY



NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

CONTACTS

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Executive Director

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission

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(902) 420-3471 Facsimile

WALTER I. YEADON

Director

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission

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ANNE MALICK, Q.C.

Director

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission

102-523 Prince Street

Truro, NS B2N 1E8

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(902) 420-6573 Halifax

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JENNIFER CAIN, C.A.

Chief Financial Officer

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission

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NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS OF MARCH 31, 2006

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Vincent B. MacDonald	Halifax	October 27, 2007	Justice
Linda Tippet-Leary	Halifax	October 27, 2007	Bar Society
Shanta Dhir	Truro	October 27, 2007	Justice
Frank Gillis, Q.C.	Glace Bay	December 2, 2007	Justice
M. Joseph Rizzetto	Sydney	February 10, 2008	Bar Society
Hugh Robichaud	Yarmouth	May 26, 2008	Bar Society
Donald G. Harding, Q.C. (Chair)	Shelburne	March 29, 2009	Justice
Glenn Joudrey	Kingston	March 29, 2009	Justice
David F. Curtis, Q.C.	Truro	March 29, 2009	Bar Society
Frank E. DeMont	New Glasgow	March 29, 2009	Bar Society
Christopher Manning	Kentville	March 29, 2009	Bar Society
James Chipman	Halifax	March 29, 2009	Justice
Clarence Guest	Halifax	-	Public Service
Shulamith Medjuck	Halifax	-	Public Service
Vacant	-	-	Bar Society
Vacant	-	-	Justice
Vacant	-	-	Justice

STANDING COMMITTEES AS OF MARCH 31, 2006

APPEAL

James Chipman
Frank DeMont
Glenn Joudrey
Vincent B. MacDonald
Christopher Manning
M. Joseph Rizzetto

Shanta Dhir
Hugh Robichaud

BUDGET

David F. Curtis, Q.C. (Vice-Chair) - Chair
Shulamith Medjuck
Clarence Guest
R. Gordon Murray, Q.C.

Donald G. Harding, Q.C. (Chair)
T. Gerard Lukeman, Q.C. (Executive Director)
Walter I. Yeadon (Director)
Anne Malick, Q.C. (Director)
Resource - David J. Slaunwhite
(Chief Financial Officer)

EXECUTIVE

Donald G. Harding, Q.C. (Chair)
T. Gerard Lukeman, Q.C. (Ex. Director)
Walter I. Yeadon (Director)
Anne Malick, Q.C. (Director)
R. Gordon Murray, Q.C.

Resource - David J. Slaunwhite
(Chief Financial Officer)
Resource - Lisa Stokkeskog
(Commission Secretary)

ELIGIBILITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Executive Committee Members
Frank G. Gillis, Q.C.
Glenn Joudrey
Linda Tippet-Leary

OFFICE LOCATIONS AS OF MARCH 31, 2006

Amherst

P.O. Box 262, 55 Church Street
Amherst, NS B4H 3Z2
(902) 667-7544 / (902) 667-0030 Fax
1-866-999-7544 Toll-Free

Annapolis Royal

P.O. Box 188, 253 St. George Street
Annapolis Royal, NS B0S 1A0
(902) 532-2311 / (902) 532-7488 Fax
1-866-532-2311 Toll-Free

Antigonish

273 Main Street
Antigonish, NS B2G 2C3
(902) 863-3350 / (902) 863-7598 Fax
1-866-439-1544 Toll-Free

Bridgewater

724 King Street
Bridgewater, NS B4V 1B6
(902) 543-4658 / (902) 543-3044 Fax
1-866-543-4658

Dartmouth

300-99 Wyse Road
Dartmouth, NS B3A 4S5
(902) 420-8815 Family/Civil
(902) 420-8818 Criminal
(902) 420-6562 Fax
1-877-420-8818 Toll-Free

Halifax-South

400-5475 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, NS B3J 3T2
(902) 420-6583 / (902) 420-1260 Fax
1-877-777-6583 Toll-Free

Kentville

325 Main Street, Salon B
Kentville, NS B4N 1K5
(902) 679-6110 / (902) 679-6177 Fax
1-866-679-6110 Toll-Free

New Glasgow

116 George Street
New Glasgow, NS B2H 2K6
(902) 755-7020 / (902) 752-8733 Fax
1-877-755-7020 Toll-Free

Sydney

401-15 Dorchester Street
Sydney, NS B1P 5Y9
(902) 563-2295 / (902) 539-0489 Fax
1-877-563-2295 Toll-Free

Truro

102-523 Prince Street
Truro, NS B2N 1E8
(902) 893-5920 / (902) 893-6112 Fax
1-877-777-5920

Windsor

P.O. Box 760, 138 Gerrish Street
Windsor, NS B0N 2T0
(902) 798-8397 / (902) 798-8345 Fax
1-866-798-8397 Toll-Free

Yarmouth

P.O. Box 163, 101 Water Street
Yarmouth, NS B5A 4B2
(902) 742-7827 / (902) 742-0676
1-866-742-3300 Toll-Free

Halifax-North

2830 Agricola Street
Halifax, NS B3K 4E4
(902) 420-3450 / (902)420-2873 Fax
1-866-420-3450 Toll-Free

HRM Youth and Duty Counsel

401-5475 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, NS B3J 3T2
(902) 420-7800/(902) 428-5736 Fax

Sydney Duty Counsel

402-15 Dorchester Street
Sydney, NS B1P 5Y9
(902) 539-7026/(902) 539-3058 Fax

Port Hawkesbury

Port Hawkesbury Justice Center
302-15 Kennedy Street
Port Hawkesbury, NS B9A 2Y1
(902) 625-4047/(902) 625-5216 Fax
1-888-817-0116 Toll-Free

Please note that for the purposes of this Annual Report, case load statistics for the Port Hawkesbury Office continue to be reported under the Antigonish Office.

Sub-Office

Liverpool - (902) 354-3215 contact BW

Office of the Executive Director

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission
102-137 Chain Lake Drive
Halifax, NS B3S 1B3
(902) 420-6573/(902) 420-3471 Fax
1-877-420-6578 Toll-Free

NSLA STAFF COMPLEMENT AS OF MARCH 31, 2006

OFFICE	Exec. Dir.	Staff Dir.	Lawyers	Admin. Support	Legal Assistants	Chief Financial Officer	Prison Liaison	Youth Court Support Workers	Library	MIS	Article Clerks	Total
Administration	1	1		6		1			1	1		11
Amherst			3		3		1				1	8
Annapolis Royal			2		2							4
Antigonish			3		2							5
Bridgewater			4		3							7
Dartmouth			9		6							15
Halifax South			9		5							14
Halifax North			6		5							11
Kentville			4		3						1	8
New Glasgow			4		3							7
Port Hawkesbury			2		2							4
Sydney			10		6							16
Truro		1	3		3						1	8
Windsor			2		2						1	5
Yarmouth			3		2.6							5.6
HRM Youth & Duty Counsel			5		3			2				10
SAC Duty Counsel			2									2
Sydney Youth & Duty Counsel			2		1.6			2				5.6
TOTALS	1	2	73	6	52.2	1	1	4	1	1	4	146.2

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present to you the Twenty-Ninth (29th) Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission. I trust that the Reader will find this Report to be a good source of information on the operation of our Province's Legal Aid Program.

Youth and Duty Counsel Office

In June 2005, the Commission reorganized its delivery of criminal legal aid services to youth with the opening of a new office in Halifax on Spring Garden Road. In that office, we have located our YCJA trial lawyers, YCJA Duty Counsel and Youth Court Support Workers, in order that they can operate efficiently as a group delivering legal services to youth in trouble with the law. This office is also home to our Adult Cells Duty Counsel and our Non-Custodial Duty Counsel for the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM).

The effective delivery of legal aid services by these staff members is much enhanced by their office being located just a few steps away from the main courthouse which handles all YCJA matters for HRM and criminal matters for Halifax.

Eligibility Review

The Commission during this year struck a Committee to review the issues related to the question of eligibility for Legal Aid and to report back to the Commission. The review is wide ranging and will cover such topics as process for determination, forms, contribution considerations, and updating of gross family income levels that measure whether applicant is in a "position equivalent to someone on Social Assistance."

It is hoped that the Commission can complete its work on this matter in the upcoming year.

Changes at Administration Office

During this year, our Chief Financial Officer, David J. Slaunwhite, announced his retirement to be effective on May 31st, 2006. With his retirement, David concludes thirty-three (33) years of service to the Commission and its predecessor, Nova Scotia Legal Aid (the Legal Aid Program of the Nova Scotia Barristers' Society).

During his tenure, David saw many changes in the operation of Legal Aid. In particular, in his first year, he handled an expenditure of \$750,000 which grew to \$18.4 million in his last year. David oversaw tremendous growth in number of staff, number of offices, and technological changes such as typewriters to computer systems; paper-based accounting records to computerized accounting packages and the appearance on the scene of photocopiers and fax machines.

On behalf of all our staff past and present, I want to extend to David our gratitude for the part he has played in the development and delivery of Legal Aid in Nova Scotia. Our clients have been well served by our Legal Aid program, and our Legal Aid program owes its strength, and its reputation, as a financially well-managed program, to the skills and abilities of David, our Chief Financial Officer.

David, we offer you our best wishes on a long, happy and healthy retirement.

With David's retirement, the Commission sought a new Chief Financial Officer. We welcome Jennifer Cain, C.A. to Legal Aid and we look forward to her assistance in the further development of the Legal Aid program.

Tariff Review

The Legal Aid Tariff regulates the terms under which a Legal Aid Certificate may be issued to a non-staff lawyer to provide authorized legal aid services to Legal Aid clients.

During this year, our Tariff Committee completed their review of the existing Tariff and proposed many changes to the Commission. The Commission adopted the Report of its Tariff Committee and forwarded the Report to the Government for regulatory action.

The Government passed regulations giving effect to the Tariff changes as recommended by the Commission. This resulted in a new Legal Aid Tariff effective February 10th, 2006 which updated the description of legal issues for which Certificates could be issued. The new Tariff also revised many of the maximum preparation times allowed for these legal issues to reflect current time demands.

The Commission is pleased to have had the support of the Government in making the changes deemed necessary to update our Tariff.

Computer Systems Update

This year also saw much activity as we embarked on a replacement/update program of old personal computers used by support staff in our offices. This replacement program also involved the replacement of servers in each office. Those servers support the computer networks used on a daily basis in the delivery of Legal Aid services.

Our Case Management System (CMS) has been running on equipment purchased in 1991. During this year, the Commission acquired new hardware and software necessary to maintain the operation of its CMS, thereby alleviating the concerns caused by an increasing rate of failure in the old hardware system coupled with increasing difficulty in locating used spare parts (new parts not available).

This update was used as an opportunity to consolidate what had been thirteen (13) separate CMS databases around the Province into a single CMS database located in the central Administration Office. This resulted in immediate data availability to the Administration Office, rather than the previous month long delays. Another benefit is that CMS can now be managed centrally rather than requiring the database manager to travel throughout the Province when changes are necessary to maintain the database.

New Office Opened

A new Courthouse, with attached Office Annex, was completed this year in the Town of Port Hawkesbury. The Commission has opened in that office annex a new full-time office. Legal Aid services were formerly provided to legal aid applicants residing in Inverness and Richmond Counties by staff located in the Antigonish Office. Legal Aid services will now be provided by staff assigned to the new full-time Port Hawkesbury office.

Due to proximity to the courts in Port Hawkesbury, it is expected that this new office location will not only provide more accessible legal aid services to applicants in Inverness and Richmond Counties, but will also assist in the efficient use of staff lawyer time given they can walk from their office to the courts.

The Commission is in the planning stages for also relocating its Yarmouth and Bridgewater Offices to new facilities being constructed as part of new courthouse structures in both locations.

Legal Aid Services Provided

The Commission had 32,180 requests for Legal Aid in the year 2005/2006. Of those, 2,408 requests were rejected as being ineligible for Legal Aid. At the year end, 366 individuals were in the process of having their eligibility determined and so are recorded as "Pending Decision". In the remaining 29,406 requests, the Commission provided these individuals with legal services.

These 29,406 services were provided in the following areas of law:

- ❖ we provided 17,613 services to adult individuals facing criminal charges;
- ❖ we provided 3,693 services to young persons (aged 12 to 17 inclusive) facing criminal charges;
- ❖ we provided individuals facing charges under Provincial Statutes with 66 services. We rarely provide services for provincial offences except when incarceration is a possibility or the particular circumstances of the individual necessitate such representation;
- ❖ we provided 7,496 services to individuals facing family law problems with a priority being placed on child protection matters and custody disputes; and,
- ❖ we provided 369 services to individuals with a variety of civil legal issues.
- ❖ with our After Hours Telephone Duty Counsel Service, there were 169 callers for whom information as to whether it was a young person or an adult calling was not collected.

For more details, I would refer you to the information charts provided later in this Annual Report.

In Closing

This year has seen retirements of three (3) other long-term staff members. Hope Davidson, Legal Assistant, Kentville, retired July 31st, 2005 after 25 years of service. Richard Vaughan, Staff Lawyer, Kentville, retired on August 31st, 2005 after 26 years of service and P. Lynn Smith, Legal Assistant, Halifax North/Youth and Duty Counsel Office, retired on January 31st, 2006 after 19 years of service.

To each of you, we acknowledge and thank you for your tremendous service to Legal Aid. It is your hard work in the "trenches" that enables our clients to receive the high quality legal representation they need to truly have effective access to our Canadian Justice System. Our best wishes go with you in whatever paths you may take in the future.

Thank You

To the staff I express my sincere appreciation for everything you have done on a day-to-day basis to deliver high quality legal aid services to our clients. Without you, we just would not have an effective system for the delivery of legal aid services. To the Chair of the Commission, Donald G. Harding, Q.C., and all members of the Commission, I thank you for the support you have provided to me and to the staff throughout the year. Together, our efforts truly make Nova Scotia a more just society for all its people.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerard Lukeman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

T. Gerard Lukeman, Q.C.
Executive Director

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY TABLE

Legal Aid may be granted to a person on Social Assistance or in an equivalent financial position where there is merit in providing legal assistance in certain areas of family/civil and criminal law.

A person is in a position equivalent to that of someone on Social Assistance when the gross monthly income of the person and his/her spouse, including common-law spouse, is less than the amount set out below. (Child Tax Credit is not counted in income) and the person's monthly expenses for shelter, food, miscellaneous, transportation and the cost of the legal service requested is greater than the amount set out below. (Maximum allowance for transportation is \$18.00)

HOUSEHOLD	GROSS MONTHLY INCOME	HOUSEHOLD	GROSS MONTHLY INCOME
One Adult	\$1067.00	Two Adults	\$1424.00
and 1 Child	\$1416.00	and 1 Child	\$1708.00
and 2 Children	\$1700.00	and 2 Children	\$1932.00
and 3 Children	\$1924.00	and 3 Children	\$2156.00
and 4 Children	\$2148.00	and 4 Children	\$2380.00
and 5 Children	\$2372.00	and 5 Children	\$2604.00
and 6 Children	\$2596.00	and 6 Children	\$2828.00
and 7 Children	\$2820.00	and 7 Children	\$3052.00

Applications Received by Method of Service

From April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 with Comparative

Disposition	2005/2006	2004/2005	Change	
Full Service				
Staff Lawyers	12,146	11,787	359	3.0%
Private Lawyers	3,805	3,789	16	0.4%
Full Service	15,951	15,576	375	3.4%
Reciprocal - Outgoing	71	78	(7)	-9.0%
Summary Service	1,152	844	308	36.5%
Duty Counsel				
Staff Duty Counsel	200	128	72	56.3%
Cells Duty Counsel	3,835	3,775	60	1.6%
Non-Custodial Duty Counsel	1,190	-	1,190	-
SAC Duty Counsel	1,490	1,391(r)	99	7.1%
Business Hours Telephone DC	1,101	1,107	(6)	-0.5%
After Hours Telephone DC	4,416	4,627	(211)	-4.6%
Duty Counsel	12,232	11,028	1,204	10.9%
Accepted Applications	29,406	27,526	1,880	6.8%
Rejected Applications	2,408	2,572	(164)	-6.4%
Pending Decision	366	388	(22)	-5.7%
Grand Total	32,180	30,486	1,694	5.6%

Applications Received by Area of Law

From April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006

Disposition	Criminal Adult	Criminal Y. P.	Provincial	Family	Civil	N/A	Total	%
Full Service								
Staff Lawyers	6,528	1,995	32	3,409	182	0	12,146	41.3%
Private Lawyers	1,486	412	0	1,849	58	0	3,805	12.9%
Full Service	8,014	2,407	32	5,258	240	0	15,951	54.2%
Reciprocals - Outgoing	0	0	0	70	1	0	71	0.2%
Summary Service	295	26	29	674	128	0	1,152	3.9%
Duty Counsel								
Staff Duty Counsel	168	27	1	4	0	0	200	0.7%
Cells Duty Counsel	3,283	551	1	0	0	0	3,835	13.1%
Non-Custodial Duty Counsel	1,188	2	0	0	0	0	1,190	4.1%
SAC Duty Counsel	0	0	0	1,490	0	0	1,490	5.1%
Business Hours Telephone DC	1,009	89	3	0	0	0	1,101	3.7%
After Hours Telephone DC	3,656	591	0	0	0	169	4,416	15%
Duty Counsel	9,304	1,260	5	1,494	0	169	12,232	41.7%
Accepted Applications	17,613	3,693	66	7,496	369	169	29,406	91.4%
Rejected Applications	929	10	56	1,263	150	0	2,408	7.5%
Pending Decision	89	26	0	248	3	0	366	1.1%
Grand Total	18,631	3,729	122	9,007	522	169	32,180	100.0%
Percent	57.9%	11.6%	0.4%	28%	1.6%	0.5%	100.0%	

Matters Completed

From April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 with Comparative

Disposition	2005/2006	2004/2005	Change	
Full Service				
Staff Lawyers	12,035	11,786	249	2.1%
Private Lawyers	3,564	2,782	782	28.1%
Full Service	15,599	14,568	1,031	7.1%
Reciprocals - Outgoing	71	78	-7	-9.0%
Summary Service	1,184	883	301	34.1%
Duty Counsel				
Staff Duty Counsel	177	127	50	39.4%
Cells Duty Counsel	3,835	3,775	60	1.6%
Non-Custodial Duty Counsel	1,190	-	1,190	-
SAC Duty Counsel	1,490	1,391(r)	99	7.1%
Business Hours Telephone DC	1,101	1,109	-8	-0.7%
After Hours Telephone DC	4,416	4,627	-211	-4.6%
Duty Counsel	12,209	11,029	1,180	10.7%
Accepted Applications	29,063	26,558	2,505	9.4%
Rejected Applications	2,502	2,568	-66	-2.6%
Pending Applications	180	134	46	34.3%
GRAND TOTAL	31,745	29,260	2,485	8.5%

Matters Completed by Area of Law

From April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006

Disposition	Criminal Adult	Criminal Y. P.	Provincial	Family	Civil	N/A	Total	%
Full Service								
Staff Lawyers	6,560	1,898	34	3,355	188	0	12,035	41.4%
Private Lawyers	1,304	365	0	1,822	73	0	3,564	12.3%
Full Service	7,864	2,263	34	5,177	261	0	15,599	53.7%
Reciprocals - Outgoing	0	0	0	71	0	0	71	0.2%
Summary Service	285	27	28	714	130	0	1,184	4.1%
Duty Counsel								
Staff Duty Counsel	147	25	0	4	0	0	177	0.6%
Cells Duty Counsel	3,283	551	1	0	0	0	3,835	13.2%
Non-Custodial Duty Counsel	1,188	2	0	0	0	0	1,190	4.1%
SAC Duty Counsel	0	0	0	1,490	0	0	1,490	5.1%
Business Hours Telephone DC	1,009	89	3	0	0	0	1,101	3.8%
After Hours Telephone DC	3,656	591	0	0	0	169	4,416	15.2%
Duty Counsel	9,283	1,258	5	1,494	0	169	12,209	42%
Accepted Applications	17,432	3,548	67	7,456	391	169	29,063	91.6%
Rejected Applications	974	10	56	1,312	150	0	2,502	7.9%
Pending Applications	30	16	0	132	2	0	180	0.5%
Grand Total	18,436	3,574	123	8,900	543	169	31,745	100%
Percent	58.1%	11.3%	0.4%	28%	1.7%	0.5%	100%	

**Number of Full Service Matters Completed
From April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006**

Full Service Matters	AM	AR	AT	BW	DR	Hfx North	Hfx South	HRM YDC	KE	NG	SY	TR	WI	YA	Staff Total	Private Lawyer
Adult Criminal																
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	6	9
Attempted Homicide	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	5	22
Robbery	3	0	1	2	20	0	67	1	2	1	9	6	3	1	116	70
Sexual assault	1	8	7	10	10	0	22	0	11	4	16	4	8	7	108	49
Sexual abuse	2	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	2
Aggravated assault	2	1	2	3	17	0	82	0	4	3	13	24	5	4	160	48
Assault	55	74	77	55	201	0	395	1	71	84	211	45	86	44	1,399	404
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	-
Abduction	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-
Arson	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	4	1	0	15	5
Weapons/Explosives	3	6	3	2	9	0	22	0	4	5	17	3	11	5	90	10
Break & Enter	19	21	13	18	32	0	77	0	15	26	39	16	26	15	317	118
Fraud/False pretence	5	6	9	8	28	0	128	0	16	24	19	6	14	5	268	17
Theft	29	16	19	23	107	0	427	1	64	49	129	59	39	17	979	83
Possession of stolen property	8	4	4	12	17	0	37	0	9	16	20	8	6	2	143	29
Damage/Mischief	15	9	17	12	23	0	42	0	22	18	31	8	18	14	229	18
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	7	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	1
Gaming/Betting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Public order offence	1	0	4	11	7	0	15	0	3	0	5	7	2	0	55	3
Administration of justice	37	3	7	18	5	0	11	0	5	3	34	16	12	0	151	11
Traffic/Import drugs	9	3	11	8	10	0	76	0	6	9	4	9	20	0	165	49
Possession of drugs	9	14	9	11	13	0	24	0	6	18	16	6	5	3	134	4
CC Motor vehicle offence	3	9	6	4	13	0	53	0	10	9	11	6	10	3	137	7
Impaired driving	7	8	34	13	14	0	30	0	17	20	45	14	19	4	225	11
Forgery/Uttering	1	4	0	1	0	0	3	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	16	2
Criminal negligence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	-
Uttering threats	10	7	11	12	36	0	120	0	14	23	73	9	8	5	328	92
Conspiracy	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-
Peace Bond	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1
Breach of probation/ Order variation	33	42	65	48	126	1	237	0	46	102	140	19	101	20	980	113
Appeal	3	2	1	1	1	0	10	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	24	18
Other	9	10	25	19	35	0	65	0	15	44	51	133	24	24	454	108
Criminal Adult Total	266	248	328	294	731	1	1,984	3	348	458	895	407	423	174	6,560	1,304

Full Service Matters	AM	AR	AT	BW	DR	Hfx North	Hfx South	HRM YDC	KE	NG	SY	TR	WI	YA	Staff Total	Private Lawyer
Young Person Criminal																
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Attempted Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Robbery	0	0	0	1	0	37	3	16	2	0	2	0	0	1	62	27
Sexual assault	1	2	3	3	0	4	0	4	2	1	2	0	4	1	27	3
Sexual abuse	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	-
Aggravated assault	0	0	0	2	0	87	0	30	1	3	1	0	0	1	125	29
Assault	15	6	13	15	1	70	2	37	12	13	48	6	12	4	254	54
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	-
Abduction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Arson	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	6	4
Weapons/Explosives	1	0	0	1	0	7	0	9	3	1	7	1	1	1	32	7
Break & Enter	3	6	4	14	0	49	2	23	5	6	21	6	15	3	157	65
Fraud/False pretence	1	1	2	0	0	5	2	2	1	0	4	0	0	0	18	3
Theft	16	2	7	16	0	82	2	65	20	9	42	6	15	7	289	55
Possession of stolen property	5	0	3	2	0	25	0	8	2	2	10	0	5	0	62	10
Damage/Mischief	4	0	9	8	0	35	0	12	4	12	20	1	3	4	112	32
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-
Gaming/Betting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Public order offence	0	1	1	1	0	27	0	12	0	0	1	2	2	0	47	8
Administration of justice	9	0	0	5	0	7	0	5	1	0	56	4	2	0	89	1
Traffic/Import drugs	0	0	1	2	0	6	0	13	2	1	0	0	1	0	26	5
Possession of drugs	3	1	3	0	0	9	0	8	2	2	0	0	1	1	30	1
CC Motor vehicle offence	1	2	0	1	0	4	0	5	1	0	3	0	0	0	17	5
Impaired driving	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	7	1
Forgery/Uttering	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	-
Criminal negligence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Uttering threats	6	1	2	6	0	24	1	19	3	3	9	0	5	4	83	12
Conspiracy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Peace Bond	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Breach of probation/ Order variation	28	5	17	26	0	46	1	52	21	24	75	1	32	7	335	28
YCJA Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
YCJA Review	3	0	1	0	0	6	0	2	1	1	0	1	2	0	17	-
Appeal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Other	4	1	6	3	0	19	1	21	2	5	23	0	3	3	91	9
Criminal Young Person Total	102	28	73	110	1	556	15	345	85	83	330	28	104	38	1,898	365

Full Service Matters	AM	AR	AT	BW	DR	Hfx North	Hfx South	HRM YDC	KE	NG	SY	TR	WI	YA	Staff Total	Private Lawyer
Provincial																
Wildlife Act	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	-
Motor Vehicle Act	0	4	3	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	6	0	17	-
Liquor Control Act	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	10	-
Appeal	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-
Other	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	-
Provincial Total	0	8	5	1	0	5	1	0	2	1	2	0	9	0	34	-
Family																
Separation	4	25	15	52	20	25	0	0	4	58	44	10	23	28	308	35
Divorce	7	45	26	37	22	39	0	0	3	47	58	20	21	33	358	274
Custody	40	64	47	21	151	190	0	0	100	76	113	47	29	54	932	441
Children Services	4	19	16	26	41	38	0	0	14	27	39	24	20	7	275	380
Enforcement	1	0	7	0	6	8	0	0	3	5	5	0	1	0	36	13
Application to vary	26	9	23	67	46	41	0	0	45	56	67	7	2	24	413	260
Maintenance	8	31	39	85	66	72	0	0	31	70	92	36	11	79	620	151
Matrimonial property	1	0	1	1	3	5	0	0	1	6	5	8	0	0	31	21
Access	1	11	9	8	24	17	0	0	11	24	8	30	7	32	182	143
Paternity	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	5	3	5	0	0	0	17	11
Secure Treatment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116	0	0	116	-
Appeal	1	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	9	25
Other	1	1	1	4	4	13	0	0	6	7	10	3	0	8	58	68
Family Total	94	205	186	303	384	451	0	0	223	379	447	301	114	268	3,355	1,822
Civil																
Litigation	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	4
Non-litigation	0	0	4	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	2	0	3	2	16	1
Admin. Tribunal	6	1	1	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	15	1
Immigration	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Review Board	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Adult Protection	2	0	9	6	19	12	0	0	19	0	27	0	3	0	97	14
Appeal	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	8
Other	3	2	17	0	0	6	0	0	0	7	2	1	10	3	51	40
Civil Total	11	3	34	6	20	27	1	0	21	9	31	2	18	5	188	73
GRAND TOTAL	473	492	626	714	1,136	1,040	2,001	348	679	930	1,705	738	668	485	12,035	3,564

Certificates Completed by Private Lawyers

From April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006

Office	Criminal Adult	Criminal Y. P.	Provincial	Family	Civil	Total	%
Amherst	58	20	0	90	4	172	4.8%
Annapolis Royal	18	0	0	26	0	44	1.2%
Antigonish	69	26	0	81	4	180	5.1%
Bridgewater	61	11	0	108	2	182	5.1%
Dartmouth	319	8	0	289	22	638	17.9%
Halifax North	6	126	0	385	16	533	15.0%
Halifax South	199	3	0	0	0	202	5.7%
HRM YDC	0	46	0	0	0	46	1.3%
Kentville	59	11	0	75	1	146	4.1%
New Glasgow	54	0	0	88	0	142	4.0%
Sydney	265	76	0	433	15	789	22.1%
Truro	45	8	0	81	2	136	3.8%
Windsor	79	12	0	46	1	138	3.9%
Yarmouth	72	18	0	116	6	212	5.9%
Administration	0	0	0	4	0	4	0.1%
Total	1,304	365	0	1,822	73	3,564	100.0%
Percent	36.6%	10.2%	0.0%	51.1%	2.0%	100.0%	

AFTER HOURS TELEPHONE DUTY COUNSEL**APRIL 1, 2005 TO MARCH 31, 2006**

Month	Criminal Adult	Criminal Young Person	Unknown	Total
April	269	41	20	330
May	283	42	15	340
June	331	52	16	399
July	368	52	21	441
August	328	44	19	391
September	290	63	24	377
October	297	54	13	364
November	289	50	9	348
December	267	41	4	312
January	355	48	12	415
February	266	56	6	328
March	313	48	10	371
TOTALS	3656	591	169	4,416

RECIPROCALs APRIL 1, 2005 TO MARCH 31, 2006						
Province	2005/2006			2004/2005		
	Outgoing	Incoming	Total	Outgoing	Incoming	Total
Alberta	10	8	18	14	8	22
British Columbia	7	5	12	7	9	16
Manitoba	2	0	2	2	1	3
New Brunswick	6	5	11	6	6	12
Newfoundland	9	4	13	9	8	17
Northwest Territories	0	2	2	0	0	0
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	26	22	48	33	28	61
Prince Edward Island	3	3	6	2	0	2
Quebec	7	0	7	3	3	6
Saskatchewan	1	1	2	2	1	3
Yukon	0	0	0	0	1	1
Outside Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	71	50	121	78	65	143

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission
Financial Statements
March 31, 2006

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AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the Legislative Assembly; and

To the Minister of Justice

I have audited the statement of financial position of Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission as at March 31, 2006, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Commission's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as at March 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Jacques R. Lapointe, CA•CIA
Auditor General

Halifax, Nova Scotia
June 13, 2006

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NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
MARCH 31, 2006**

ASSETS		
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Current		
Cash	\$ 4,979,368	\$ 1,376,962
Marketable securities (note 2(f))	2,900,000	3,500,000
Receivables	314,114	607,333
Prepaid expenses	<u>83,164</u>	<u>57,255</u>
	8,276,646	7,541,550
Due from Department of Finance (note 2(g))	2,172,848	1,917,275
Property and equipment (note 3)	426,326	290,427
Trust Fund - long service awards (note 4)	<u>1,946,723</u>	<u>1,846,178</u>
	<u>\$ 12,822,543</u>	<u>\$ 11,595,430</u>

LIABILITIES		
Current		
Payables and accruals (notes 5 and 6)	\$ 3,318,797	\$ 2,520,727
Deferred contribution - special cases (note 7)	<u>595,395</u>	<u>643,778</u>
	3,914,192	3,164,505
Long term		
Long service awards (note 8)	1,946,723	1,846,178
Employee future benefits (notes 2(g) and 9)	2,172,848	1,917,275
Deferred contributions - property and equipment (note 10)	<u>738,747</u>	<u>455,425</u>
	<u>8,772,510</u>	<u>7,383,383</u>

NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets (page 4)	2,167,565	2,298,032
Reserve for property and equipment expenditures (page 4 and note 11)	-	43,055
Net assets invested in capital assets (page 4)	271,237	288,955
Reserve for future case completion (page 4 and note 11)	<u>1,611,231</u>	<u>1,582,005</u>
	<u>4,050,033</u>	<u>4,212,047</u>
	<u>\$ 12,822,543</u>	<u>\$ 11,595,430</u>

Commitment and contingencies (note 13)
See accompanying notes

On Behalf of the Board

Director

Director

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NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Revenue		
Operating grants - Province of Nova Scotia	\$ 17,769,351	\$ 17,111,521
Employee future benefits grant - Province of Nova Scotia	255,573	229,913
Interest	231,404	157,999
Other income	<u>47,391</u>	<u>28,724</u>
	<u>18,303,719</u>	<u>17,528,157</u>
Expenses (page 12)		
Amortization	139,646	148,169
Directors' fees	15,411	19,038
Equipment and maintenance	309,810	206,135
Library	158,321	152,801
Memberships, meetings and conferences	364,998	284,483
Office disbursements	241,168	232,556
Private solicitors' fees (note 6)	3,746,234	3,207,541
Professional and other fees	397,515	286,791
Salaries and benefits	11,666,777	10,776,918
Supplies and services	1,256,412	1,041,556
Travel	<u>169,441</u>	<u>182,674</u>
	<u>18,465,733</u>	<u>16,538,662</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before special cases	<u>(162,014)</u>	<u>989,495</u>
Special cases (note 7)		
Contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia	85,283	128,343
Contributions from clients	<u>13,190</u>	<u>12,543</u>
	98,473	140,886
Expenses, special cases	<u>98,473</u>	<u>140,886</u>
	-	-
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	<u>\$ (162,014)</u>	<u>\$ 989,495</u>

See accompanying notes

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
MARCH 31, 2006

					2006	2005
	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Reserve for</u>	<u>Net Assets</u>	<u>Reserve for</u>		
	<u>Net Assets</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Invested in</u>	<u>Future Case</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
		<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Completion</u>		
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 2,298,032	\$ 43,055	\$ 288,955	\$ 1,582,005	\$ 4,212,047	\$ 3,222,552
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	(162,014)	-	-	-	(162,014)	989,495
Purchase of property and equipment	(74,633)	(43,055)	117,688	-	-	-
Amortization, net	135,406	-	(135,406)	-	-	-
Transfer to reserve for future case completion	<u>(29,226)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,226</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 2,167,565</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 271,237</u>	<u>\$ 1,611,231</u>	<u>\$ 4,050,033</u>	<u>\$ 4,212,047</u>

See accompanying notes

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Operating Activities		
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (162,014)	\$ 989,495
Amortization	139,646	148,169
Amortization of deferred contributions - capital	<u>(66,679)</u>	<u>(78,626)</u>
	(89,047)	1,059,038
Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations (note 12)	<u>3,616,998</u>	<u>281,758</u>
	<u>3,527,951</u>	<u>1,340,796</u>
Investing Activities		
Purchase of		
Furniture and equipment	(13,465)	(14,355)
Computer equipment	(262,080)	(172,229)
Deferred capital grant	<u>350,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>74,455</u>	<u>(186,584)</u>
Increase in cash during year	3,602,406	1,154,212
Cash, beginning of year	<u>1,376,962</u>	<u>222,750</u>
Cash, end of year	\$ <u>4,979,368</u>	\$ <u>1,376,962</u>

See accompanying notes

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2006

1. Authority

The Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission was established in 1977 pursuant to the Legal Aid Act. The Act and Regulations stipulate that the Commission can provide legal services to persons whose income is derived primarily from municipal or provincial social assistance or to persons in an equivalent position.

Commission activities are funded by a grant from the Province of Nova Scotia. The Province in turn receives a contribution from the Government of Canada for legal aid provided by the Commission.

2. Accounting Policies

(a) Cash

Cash consist of cash on hand and balances with banks.

(b) Amortization

Property and equipment are stated at cost and are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives:

Computer equipment	33.33% per year
Furniture and equipment	20% per year
Leasehold improvements	Over term of lease
Equipment under capital lease	33.33% per year

(c) Financial Instruments

The Commission's financial instruments consist of cash, investments, receivables and payables. It is management's opinion that the Commission is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from these financial instruments.

The Commission estimates that the fair value of its cash, investments, receivables and payables approximate their carrying values due to the relatively short period to maturity of these financial instruments.

(d) Use of Estimates

The presentation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the reported period. Actual results could differ from those reported.

(e) Special Cases

Periodically, the Commission provides legal services to clients upon special request from the Department of Justice where the clients would not otherwise be eligible under the Commission's guidelines. Contributions and expenses related to these special cases are presented separately on the statement of operations.

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2006

2. Accounting Policies (cont'd)

(f) Marketable Securities

Investments consist of guaranteed investment certificates and are valued at cost, which approximates market value. These guaranteed investment certificates bear interest in a range of 2.6% to 2.85% (2005 - 2.1% to 2.2%) and mature between 3 and 38 days (2005 - 32 and 125 days) after year-end.

(g) Employee Future Benefits

As at March 31, 2005, the Commission retroactively adopted the method of accounting for employee future benefits required by The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants' recommendations in Section 3461, Employee Future Benefits. The main components of this accounting policy are costs for employee future benefits other than pensions which are accrued over the periods in which the employees render services in return for these benefits. These benefits are for health insurance programs. A liability for employee future benefits of \$2,172,848 (2005 - \$1,917,275) has been included in the financial statements. The liability as at March 31, 2006 and 2005 has been assumed by the Province of Nova Scotia so an offset of the same amount has been recorded as a receivable from the Department of Finance. The current year's expense incurred for these future employee benefits is \$274,430 (2005 - \$245,515).

(h) Revenue Recognition

Operating grants and other revenue are recorded on the accrual basis.

Contributions from the Province of Nova Scotia for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment are recorded as deferred contributions and are amortized to revenue in accordance with the amortization schedule for each equipment acquired.

3. Property and equipment

	<u>2006</u>			<u>2005</u>
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>	<u>Net Book Value</u>
Leasehold improvements	\$ 106,769	\$ 88,969	\$ 17,800	\$ 31,669
Furniture and fixtures	164,985	110,380	54,605	72,333
Computer equipment	<u>928,798</u>	<u>574,877</u>	<u>353,921</u>	<u>186,425</u>
	<u>\$ 1,200,552</u>	<u>\$ 774,226</u>	<u>\$ 426,326</u>	<u>\$ 290,427</u>

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2006

4. Trust Fund - Long Service Awards

The Commission follows the provisions of the Civil Service Act with respect to the payment of long service awards to retiring employees. The Commission is responsible for the funding and eventual payment of these awards.

The Commission maintains a trust fund to provide for the eventual payment of awards and to administer long service award advances. The Commission provides contributions, from general operating funds, to defray future obligations for long service awards.

In prior years, employees with fifteen years of employment could apply for an advance on their long service award. Advances are repayable upon retirement or termination, together with interest at the provincial borrowing rate which existed at the time of the advance. To date, six employees have received advances with two advances outstanding at year end. Advances plus accrued interest at March 31, 2006 totaled \$37,606 (2005 - \$51,185).

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ <u>1,846,178</u>	\$ <u>1,714,342</u>
Add: Contribution from operating funds	86,844	76,915
Outstanding year end contribution	52,665	138,159
Interest on long service award advances	1,235	2,723
Interest on investments	<u>41,839</u>	<u>30,812</u>
	<u>182,583</u>	<u>248,609</u>
Less: Long service awards paid to retiring employees	81,978	116,713
Operating charge	<u>60</u>	<u>60</u>
	<u>82,038</u>	<u>116,773</u>
Balance, end of year	\$ <u>1,946,723</u>	\$ <u>1,846,178</u>
Consisting of:		
Cash	\$ 1,856,452	\$ 56,834
Investments and accrued interest on investments	-	1,600,000
Receivable - long service award advances		
and accrued interest on advances	37,606	51,185
Contribution due from operating funds	<u>52,665</u>	<u>138,159</u>
	\$ <u>1,946,723</u>	\$ <u>1,846,178</u>

5. Payables and Accruals

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Supplies and services	\$ 240,311	\$ 188,344
Accrued private solicitors' fees (note 6)	2,694,209	2,026,705
Employee salaries and benefits	<u>384,277</u>	<u>305,678</u>
	\$ <u>3,318,797</u>	\$ <u>2,520,727</u>

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2006

6. Measurement Uncertainty

Measurement uncertainty is uncertainty in the determination of the amount at which an item is recognized in the financial statements. This exists when there is a variance between the recorded amount and another reasonable possible amount.

Measurement uncertainty in these financial statements is inherent in the recording of accrued private solicitors' fees. At the end of each fiscal year the Commission has a liability for work conducted by private solicitors that is not yet billed and paid. At March 31, 2006, a liability of \$2,694,209 (2005 - \$2,026,705) was recorded, of which \$2,197,594 (2005 - \$1,734,270) was estimated using a system that incorporates average costs and time frames for similar cases over the last two years. The estimate will vary from the eventual billings from private solicitors due to the specific requirements of each case.

7. Deferred Contribution - Special Cases

Special case funding is received from the Province of Nova Scotia and is restricted solely for expenditures incurred in the process of defending clients. Amounts not used for current expenditures are deferred to be applied against future cases. Any funding not committed at the conclusion of the cases must be returned to the Province of Nova Scotia.

8. Long Service Awards

Employees of the Commission are entitled to long service awards upon retirement. The awards are based on the number of years of service of the employee, and are earned at the rate of one week's pay for every year of service, to a maximum of twenty-six weeks.

In 2006, the Commission engaged an outside consultant to estimate the liability relating to the awards. Based on the estimate of the present value of obligation respecting long service awards at March 31, 2006, the long service award trust funds of \$1,946,723 (2005 - \$1,846,178) are sufficient to fund the liability.

9. Employee future benefits

The Commission has provided for employee future benefits other than pensions for life insurance, dental and medical programs.

The significant actuarial assumptions adopted in measuring the Commission's accrued benefit obligations are as follows:

Discount rate	5.25%
Expected health care costs trend rate	10% in 2005 decreasing down to 4% per annum in and after 2011
Retirement age assumption	59 years
Participation	90% of members are assumed to participate in the retiree health and dental programs

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2006

10. Deferred Contributions - Property and Equipment

Deferred contributions relates to funding received from the Province of Nova Scotia to offset costs of upgrading the Commission's computer systems. The changes in the deferred contributions balance for the period are as follows:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 455,425	\$ 534,051
Less: amounts amortized to revenue	(66,678)	(78,626)
Plus: contributions received	<u>350,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 738,747</u>	<u>\$ 455,425</u>

11. Reserves

Reserve for Property and Equipment Expenditures

The Commission has appropriated an amount from unrestricted net assets that approximates management's best estimate of the future capital expenditures that will be required to upgrade its management information systems.

Reserve for Future Case Completion

The Commission has appropriated an amount from unrestricted net assets that approximates management's best estimate of the remaining cost to complete the cases that are in progress as at March 31, 2006.

12. Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash from changes in:		
Receivables	\$ 293,219	\$ (426,313)
Prepaid expenses	(25,909)	(22,268)
Payables and accruals	798,071	909,215
Deferred contributions - special cases	(48,383)	(128,876)
Marketable securities	<u>2,600,000</u>	<u>(50,000)</u>
	<u>\$ 3,616,998</u>	<u>\$ 281,758</u>

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS MARCH 31, 2006

13. Commitments and Contingencies

(a) The Commission has entered into lease agreements for ten of its offices. The remaining three offices do not have formal lease agreements. Lease agreements typically call for payment of a base rent plus a provision for the Commission's portion of operating costs and property taxes. Lease terms vary by office.

Minimum lease payments for the next five fiscal years, not including operating costs and taxes, are as follows:

2007	\$	768,207
2008	\$	744,260
2009	\$	661,638
2010	\$	609,064
2011	\$	467,575

(b) The Commission provides funding to Dalhousie Legal Aid Services. The Commission has agreed to provide a grant of \$69,000 to Dalhousie Legal Aid Services for the year ending March 31, 2007.

(c) The Commission has been named a defendant in two separate actions. As of the audit report date, the outcome of these claims are not determinable, and accordingly, no provision has been made for them in the financial statements.

14. Client Trust Funds

On March 31, 2006, \$16,148 (2005 - \$15,614) was held in trust for clients. These trust funds are accounted for separately and are not reflected in the financial statements.

15. Pensions

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Legal Aid Act, all permanent employees of the Commission are entitled to receive pension benefits under the Province of Nova Scotia Public Service Superannuation Act. The plan is funded by equal employee and employer contributions. The employer contributions are included in the Commission's operating expenses in the amount of \$624,179 (2005 - \$571,432). The Commission is not responsible for any unfunded liability with respect to the superannuation fund.

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

EXPENSES YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2006

	Budget 2006	Actual 2006	Actual 2005
Amortization	\$ 116,500	\$ 139,646	\$ 148,169
Directors' fees	45,000	15,411	19,038
Equipment and maintenance			
Leasehold improvements	31,800	37,602	14,967
Office furniture and equipment	61,000	133,586	76,393
Office machine leasing	91,400	83,461	70,875
Office machine maintenance	76,700	55,161	43,900
	<u>260,900</u>	<u>309,810</u>	<u>206,135</u>
Library	205,000	158,321	152,801
Memberships, meetings and conferences			
Memberships and dues	208,000	218,587	166,434
Meetings and conferences	171,500	146,411	118,049
	<u>379,500</u>	<u>364,998</u>	<u>284,483</u>
Office disbursements			
Civil and family	150,000	105,926	102,606
Criminal	150,000	123,177	117,032
Young offender	22,000	12,065	12,918
	<u>322,000</u>	<u>241,168</u>	<u>232,556</u>
Private solicitors' fees			
Civil and family - conflicts	1,721,400	1,892,789	1,693,024
Criminal - choice of counsel	338,800	244,769	105,718
Criminal - conflicts	1,301,040	1,379,479	1,232,079
Young offender - choice of counsel	104,200	-	8,677
Young offender - conflicts	230,160	229,197	168,043
	<u>3,695,600</u>	<u>3,746,234</u>	<u>3,207,541</u>
Professional and other fees			
Professional fees	386,900	397,515	286,791
Consultant fees	50,000	-	-
	<u>436,900</u>	<u>397,515</u>	<u>286,791</u>
Salaries and benefits	11,801,000	11,666,777	10,776,918
Supplies and services			
General cleaning and office expense	79,500	94,969	85,064
Heat, light and water	30,000	25,886	26,669
Miscellaneous	-	-	3,665
Printing and stationery	108,000	111,119	97,906
Rent, insurance and taxes	852,100	814,447	638,552
Telephone and postage	215,000	209,991	189,700
	<u>1,284,600</u>	<u>1,256,412</u>	<u>1,041,556</u>
Travel	181,100	169,441	182,674
	<u>\$ 18,728,100</u>	<u>\$ 18,465,733</u>	<u>\$ 16,538,662</u>

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Advice - Legal counsel provided to people who require only legal advice but no further legal service.

AM - Amherst Office

After Hours Telephone Duty Counsel - After hours legal advice provided by lawyers.

Applications Pending Decision as to Service - Applications for Legal Aid received in the fiscal year for which a decision has yet to be made.

Applications Received by Method of Service - Applications for Legal Aid received in the fiscal year and how those applications were dealt with.

AR - Annapolis Royal Office

AT - Antigonish Office

BW - Bridgewater Office

Cells Duty Counsel - Legal representation provided by a staff lawyer at the Halifax Provincial Court, Spring Garden Road. This representation is provided to only those individuals detained in cells. The Commission initiated the same service at Dartmouth Provincial Court site, Pleasant Street in February 2001 with a contract lawyer.

Certificate - Contract entered into between the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission and a private lawyer to provide legal representation to clients who qualify for Legal Aid services but cannot be represented by the local Nova Scotia Legal Aid Office due to conflicts of interest. Nova Scotia Legal Aid continues to give individuals charged with offences punishable by mandatory life imprisonment (murder) a choice of defence counsel and this results in Certificates being issued to private lawyers as well.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Dalhousie Legal Aid Service - A Legal Aid Service affiliated with Dalhousie Law School and which receives a grant from the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission. The Dalhousie Legal Aid Service provides services to clients through its staff lawyers with the assistance of Dalhousie Law School students who are supervised by the lawyers in while gaining clinical legal experience. Dalhousie Legal Aid Service represents a number of clients who have qualified for Legal Aid on application to the Commission. The Dalhousie Legal Aid Service is compensated for those clients according to the terms of the Legal Aid Certificate issued in the matter and the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Tariff.

DR - Dartmouth Office

Full Service - Full Service matters are all those matters which require a higher commitment of legal resources than can be serviced as a Summary Service.

Halifax North - Halifax Agricola Street Office

Halifax-South - Halifax Spring Garden Road Office

HRM YDC - Youth & Duty Counsel Office for the Halifax Regional Municipality

KE - Kentville Office

Matters Completed - Cases which concluded in the fiscal year.

NG - New Glasgow Office

PH - Port Hawkesbury Office - Please note that for the purposes of this Annual Report, case load statistics for the Port Hawkesbury Office continue to be reported under the Antigonish Office

Private Lawyers - Members of the private Bar representing clients by way of a Nova Scotia Legal Aid Certificate.

(r) - Revised.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Reciprocal - Outgoing - An application for Legal Aid which is forwarded to another province where the Nova Scotia resident requires legal representation. All provinces and territories by agreement participate in this exchange of applications for Legal Aid.

Rejected Applications - Applicants for Nova Scotia Legal Aid who were not provided with service due to financial ineligibility, lack of merit, or the service requested was outside of the scope of service.

SAC Duty Counsel - This is Summary Advice/Duty Counsel (SAC) provided by two staff lawyers located at the Supreme Court, Family Division locations in Halifax and Sydney. This SAC program is a project partially funded from Commission resources and by the Federal and Provincial Governments by way of project funding. The SAC counsel provided summary advice in family law matters. This project is an effort to respond to the unmet needs of self-represented family law litigants for legal advice. Further, it is expected that providing summary legal advice to self-represented litigants in the Family Division may result in more timely processing of family law cases involving self-represented litigants.

Staff Lawyers - Lawyers employed by the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission.

Staff Duty Counsel - Lawyers employed by the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission who provide legal representation, either by telephone or in person, to people detained in the Provincial Court Cells or at a police station. The staff lawyers also, on occasion, provide Duty Counsel services to family or civil clients as the situation may require.

Summary Service - Summary Service matters are those matters which require a lesser commitment of legal resources and are serviced through advice.

SY - Sydney Office

TR - Truro Office

WI - Windsor Office

DEFINITION OF TERMS

YA - Yarmouth Office

YCJA - *Youth Criminal Justice Act*

